



SORRT

Network Newsletter

Smart Organizations Reduce
and Recycle Tons

Montgomery County, Maryland

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America Recycles Day

Calling all recyclers! On November 15, 2009, the country will celebrate America Recycles Day, the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and to buy products made with recycled materials. A project of Keep America Beautiful and the National Recycling Coalition, America Recycles Day has grown to include millions of Americans pledging to increase their recycling habits at home and work and to buy products made with recycled materials.

As Montgomery County celebrates America Recycles Day this November, take a closer look at your business practices. Businesses in Montgomery County generate more than half of all of the County's solid waste and we need all the help that we can get to reach the County's 50 percent recycling goal. Are you and your employees recycling all of the County's required recyclable materials? If you are recycling everything that you can recycle, does your business have a policy in place to encourage purchasing of recycled-content products? How about reducing your waste?

Recycling is the one thing your business can do each and everyday and there are plenty of easy ways that your company can reduce, reuse and recycle. Here are some easy ideas your business can implement to celebrate America Recycles Day:

- Announce a commitment to buy recycled-content products for your workplace (for example, recycled copy paper, toner cartridges, or compost for landscaping).
- Ask your suppliers to reduce the amount of packaging they use.

- Buy reusable mugs with your company logo for employees to use instead of disposable cups.
- Have a paperless office day. Encourage staff to use e-mail and edit documents on-line. If your business would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter in the future, please send your e-mail address to gabriela.monzon-reynolds@montgomerycountymd.gov.
- Encourage employees to use both sides of a sheet of paper for printing, copying, and writing.
- Redesign and reuse non-sensitive documents for scratch paper as note pads. (Your local copy store may cut and glue pads for a nominal fee).
- Before you throw away equipment or furniture that you don't need, consider donating the items to a charitable organization, place them with an online service such as Freecycle.com, or check the Division of Solid Waste Services "Use It Again" database on-line at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/useitagain to identify organizations that are in need of these types of materials.



This November, pledge your efforts to become more informed about the importance of recycling, reducing waste, and buying recycled products. For more information, please contact the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services at 240-777-6400 or visit our Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

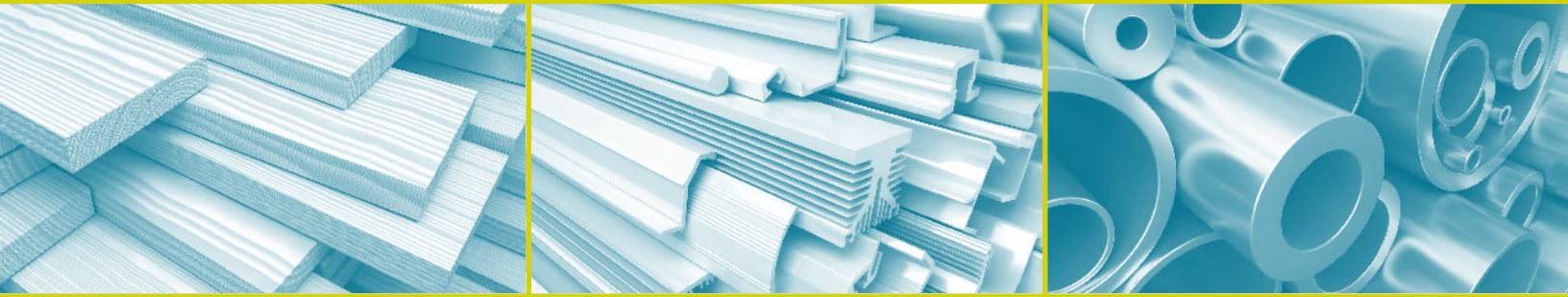
TAKE THE PLEDGE

- ✓ I pledge to find out what materials I can and cannot recycle at my workplace.
- ✓ I pledge to lead by example in my workplace by recycling.
- ✓ I pledge to recycle batteries, cell phones and other electronic waste.
- ✓ I pledge to tell five co-workers that recycling is the easiest thing they can do to help the environment.

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Recycling Building and Construction Materials



If your business is considering a remodeling or construction job, remember to coordinate a plan for removing and recycling the unusable building materials. Under Montgomery County Executive Regulation 15-04AM, businesses are required to recycle certain materials including scrap metal, mixed paper, commingled materials and yard trim (see recycling check list for a complete list of mandatory materials). If your remodeling or construction job will generate any of these mandatory materials, your business will need to arrange for proper recycling collection services.

Planning ahead is key. Before beginning the project, identify the mandatory items that will need to be recycled and establish a plan to separate these items from the rest of the debris. Also, identify other types of materials being generated that can be recycled by various construction and demolition recycling companies such as asphalt shingles, wood, bricks, drywall, etc. Find the appropriate collector to arrange recycling collection services and ask if they will help you determine the number and size of central collection containers and a collection schedule that best fits your needs. Remember, all recycling containers must be clearly labeled to indicate the appropriate material to be placed inside for recycling.

You may also want to reuse or donate some of the building materials. The County's "Don't Dump. Donate!" Program, a collaborative effort between the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services and The Loading Dock, offers builders the opportunity to donate used,

but usable building materials from remodeling and construction jobs. Donating or reusing building materials, including toilets, bricks, flooring, lumber, or kitchen cabinets, not only reduces the need to dispose of materials, but also reduces the amount of energy used to make new items from virgin materials.

Careful planning, reusing and recycling of building materials can actually be more economical than disposal. The cost of transporting and disposing of building materials is a significant expense, and reducing this waste can minimize disposal costs, thus improving your bottom line.

Here are just a few websites for additional information about recycling building materials:

- The Loading Dock: www.loadingdock.org
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore: www.habitat-mc.org/restore
- Community Fork Lift: www.communityforklift.com
- Builders' Guide to Reuse & Recycling: A Directory for Construction and Demolition Materials in the Metropolitan Washington Region: www.mwcog.org/buildersrecyclingguide

For more information on how to recycle construction and demolition materials or for the County's "Don't Dump. Donate!" Program, please contact the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services at **240-777-6400** or visit our Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

DID YOU KNOW?

"Paper Reduction – Saving Natural Resources"

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper in County Government, the SORRT Network Newsletter is available electronically. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically in the future, please send your e-mail address to gabriela.monzon-reynolds@montgomerycountymd.gov.

FOCUS ON Scrap Metal

Many businesses in Montgomery County use and discard various metal items throughout the year. These items can range from something as small as metal wire clothes hangers to larger items such as refrigerators, filing cabinets, and construction/demolition materials such as wire and rebar. Scrap metal can be a valuable commodity generating revenue for your business, and it's required to be recycled.

Recycling scrap metal is mandatory in Montgomery County, and a wide variety of scrap metal items are accepted by the County's Solid Waste Transfer Station/ Recycling Center. The County Division of Solid Waste Services does not pay businesses for scrap metal. Businesses may also contract with a scrap metal recycling company for collection or self-haul their scrap metal to a private recycling company.

Examples of scrap metal for recycling:

- Refrigerators/freezers (doors removed)
- Wire clothes hangers
- Metal pipes
- Old tools
- Chain link and wire fencing
- Lawnmowers
- Aluminum, steel, iron and copper items
- Filing cabinets
- Metal shelving
- And more . . .

Average Scrap Metal Prices – October 2009

Listed below are the average prices paid for scrap metal (per pound of material U.S. dollars) in October 2009.

North East USA / Maritimes Region

Non-ferrous metals		Ferrous Metals	
Aluminum	\$ 0.50	Scrap Iron	\$0.10
Brass	\$ 1.23	Stainless Steel	\$0.80
Copper	\$ 3.25	Steel	\$0.31

For more information on scrap metal recycling or to obtain a list of private scrap metal recycling companies visit our Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling, or call the Division of Solid Waste Services at 240-777-6400.



NEWS FLASH! Additional Items to Recycle

Can I recycle the same materials at work that I can recycle at home?

On September 21, 2009, Montgomery County expanded its residential curbside recycling program to include additional materials for recycling. Montgomery County residents receiving County-provided recycling collection services can recycle non-hazardous aerosol cans and Tupperware™ and Rubbermaid™ -type durable reusable plastic containers and lids. Non-hazardous aerosol cans include whipped topping, spray cooking oil, deodorant, shaving cream and hair spray aerosol cans. These cans must be emptied before being placed into the blue commingled materials recycling bin.

In addition, the mixed paper recycling program has been expanded to include various types of coated



paper items. These items include milk and juice cartons, frozen food boxes, cardboard ice cream containers and lids, paper coffee and drink cups, wax-coated fruit and produce boxes, and juice and drink boxes which should be placed in the mixed paper recycling cart.

Can I recycle these new materials at work as well? Since the County does not provide recycling collection services for businesses and commercial properties, your business will have to check with its recycling collection company to determine whether these additional materials can be included in your recycling program at work.

ENFORCEMENT CHECKLIST

Is your Business in Compliance?

Recycling is the law in Montgomery County and this is one list of issues for your business to avoid! These are the top ten issues and violations of the County's recycling regulations most commonly observed by County staff when conducting site visits of businesses:

- ☒ Recycling containers either not properly labeled or not labeled at all.
- ☒ Overflowing containers due to insufficient container capacity or collections per site.
- ☒ Outside containers not closed or covered properly.
- ☒ Recycling containers not placed next to trash containers or next to vending machines.
- ☒ Recyclable materials mixed in with trash.
- ☒ Employees unaware of their business' recycling program.
- ☒ Businesses failing to maintain copies of their invoices for collection services.
- ☒ Businesses unaware of who collects their recyclables or trash.
- ☒ Janitorial service companies mixing loads of recyclable materials with trash.
- ☒ Property owners neglecting to provide recycling collection services for their tenants.

If you think any of these top ten issues or violations are true for your business, contact the Montgomery County SORRT program at **240-777-6400** to find out how you can start a recycling program, or enhance the program you already have. County staff members are happy to work with you to make your business recycling program a success and help you stay in compliance with the law.

Contact Us

Montgomery County
Division of Solid Waste Services
240-777-6400
240-777-6465 (fax)
240-777-6442 (tty)
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
email: recycle@montgomerycountymd.gov

County Transfer Station
240-777-6560

County Recycling Center
301-417-1433

This information is available in an alternative format by calling Gabriela Monzon-Reynolds at 240-777-6400.

RECYCLING CHECKLIST

Commercial properties and businesses must recycle the following materials if these are generated:

Mixed or Sorted Paper

- ☒ White & Colored Paper
- ☒ Cardboard, Boxboard & Cereal Boxes
- ☒ Newspaper & Inserts
- ☒ Magazines & Catalogs
- ☒ Telephone, Paperback & Hardcover Books
- ☒ Unwanted Mail & Envelopes (with or without windows)
- ☒ Shredded Paper & All Other Clean and Dry Paper

Commingled Containers

- ☒ Glass Bottles & Jars
- ☒ Aluminum Cans & Foil Products
- ☒ Bi-Metal Food & Beverage Cans
- ☒ Plastic Bottles, Containers, Jars, Tubs, Lids, Pails/Buckets and Flower Pots

Yard Trim (Grass, Leaves and Brush)

Christmas Trees

Scrap Metal



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR RECYCLING...

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling

Printed on 50% post-consumer recycled and recyclable paper.



SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Recycling Reports Due
February 1, 2010
• Large-sized businesses (250 or more employees)

March 1, 2010
• Medium-sized businesses (100 to 249 employees)
• Selected small-sized businesses (less than 100 employees)
• Commercial property owners/ managers
• of multi-tenant facilities

Montgomery County
Division of Solid Waste Services
SORT Program
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